

# Host Nation COVID-19 News Stories for April 8

## **Robert Koch Institute-Exit Strategy from restrictions**

In the battle against the virus outbreak, the Robert Koch Institute (RKI) believes that an end to all measures at once is currently unthinkable. "An exit might suggest that one simply lifts all measures and then lives as before the epidemic. I personally cannot imagine that at the moment," says Robert Koch Institute Director Lothar Wieler with regard to the debate about an exit strategy, the so-called exit from the restrictions. "I imagine that there will be certain changes step by step." Politicians would have to decide on the exact procedure", Wieler says. (*News channel Ntv April 08, 2020*)

## **Germanwings is no longer operating- Corona crisis**

The Corona pandemic forces Lufthansa to make drastic cuts. The company discontinues operations of its subsidiary company Germanwings. The aircraft of other subsidiaries will also be decommissioned. 18 long-distance aircraft and eleven medium-range jets will be permanently grounded at the core company Lufthansa. Among them are six Airbus A380 aircraft, which should be returned to the manufacturer Airbus from 2022. The executive board has decided that Eurowings' long-distance flights will also be significantly reduced. Until now Germanwings was flying on behalf of Eurowings. Lufthansa announced that Eurowings' goal is to bundle its flight operations into a single unit, which had already been established before the crisis, and that it will now be implemented faster. "Germanwings' flight operations will be discontinued," it was said. (*Ard news April 07, 2020*)

## **Reduced controls on food during the Corona crisis**

Consumer protection organizations complain of massive restrictions on food controls due to the Corona crisis. Routine controls in companies as well as sample analyses have been largely suspended, as laboratory capacities are now needed for corona samples. Martin Rücker, the Director General of the consumer protection organisation Foodwatch, tells the newspapers of the Funke Media Group that inspectors in the public health offices are helping out. "This will be a real problem in the long term because such routine checks are necessary to prevent any food-related diseases - which, by the way, is particularly important during the corona pandemic," says Rücker. (*News channel Zdf April 08, 2020*)

## **Corona" emergency aid: 1.14 billion euros paid out**

To date, some 157,000 applications for the country's emergency aid programme to overcome the Corona crisis have been submitted to the L-Bank by the chambers. Over 116,800 grants amounting to almost 1.14 billion euros have been paid out. (*PRESS Release, April 7*)

**The city administration of Sindelfingen calls on children and young people to paint, do handicrafts or write for the isolated seniors in the senior citizens' facilities. Under the slogan "Giving joy to seniors", the artworks should give joy and a little positive distraction in times of Corona.**

No family visits, no walks, little variety: the restrictions to contain the corona pandemic are hitting older people particularly hard. To help the residents of Sindelfingen's senior citizens' homes get rid of their loneliness and send them a dose of happiness, the city administration is calling on Sindelfingen's children and young people to paint cheerful pictures, do little handicrafts or write a nice letter or postcard. These can be handed in at Sindelfingen's town hall or sent by mail. The city administration will then distribute the collected works of art regularly to the various senior citizens' institutions in Sindelfingen, Maichingen and Darmsheim.

Lord Mayor Dr. Bernd Vöhringer says: "With this wonderful activity the children are able to enrich the long everyday life of the isolated residents of the retirement homes from home with a little joy and will surely have some variety and fun themselves while doing so".

Please leave your artwork at the main entrance of the Sindelfingen Town Hall or send it by mail to the Sindelfingen city administration, Rathausplatz 1, 71063 Sindelfingen. (*Press release city of Sindelfingen*)

### **Kuhn thanks police and law enforcement for diligent efforts in public area surveillance**

Lord Mayor and Police Commissioner both praise the behaviour of the citizens of the state capital. Kuhn said after a meeting of the crisis management personnel on Wednesday, April 8th: "Reports of the past few days show that the vast majority of citizens react with understanding when officials ask them to keep their distance and not to form groups. He also mentioned positive Feedback from the citizens while in contact with officials. He stated: "I would like to thank everyone For this gentle approach."

The Lord Mayor underlined: "Police and law enforcement services support our fight against the spread of the Corona virus through their presence in the city and their monitoring public places. This will also happen on the upcoming holidays, when many people will go outdoors and into nature. Kuhn: "Police and law enforcement agencies will have increased surveillance. They will clearly and understandably remind people to follow the guidelines for infection prevention.

"We can see that people everywhere in Stuttgart have a great deal of understanding for the rules," explained police commissioner Franz Lutz after the meeting: "Most of them make it easy for us, by being very careful themselves...Our policemen on patrol are available to citizens at all times. We are happy to help!" he stated.

Mayor Kuhn also praised the equally cautious behavior of the citizens: "Most people take the rules seriously, that helps immensely. Kuhn appealed: "Stay within your immediate surroundings, avoid destinations and places when there are already many people on the move. Keep a distance from each other, at least one and a half, preferably two meters, when walking, cycling or doing sports. Avoid direct social contacts. Contribute to this by doing your part. That way you will protect yourself and others." (*Press release state capital Stuttgart April 08, 2020*)